

14 April 1981

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
1230 York Avenue
New York City, N.Y. 10021

Dear Josh,

Attached please find precis of the backgrounds of the authors whose article seemed to have appeared so providently in ZhMEI, following the international hoopla period. Very much a put-up job in my view. The translation appears ambiguous only because the Soviet statement is a loose pronouncement.

Probably you have made your own calculations of anthrax incidence in the USSR. By way of comparison let me offer some estimates based on multiple approaches from the literature.

Anthrax Incidence (USSR)

Date Estimated Total Cases

1913	25,152	n.b. USSR pop.=260,000,000 (1978 estim.)
1917	18,000(+)	
1946	15,600(+)	
1950	2,600-2,765	
1955	1,817-1,820	
1965	778-780	
1970	520	
1977	650-671	
1978	700(+)	


Date Estimated Differential Cases

	<u>Intestinal</u>	<u>Inhalation</u>
1977	16	8
1978	17	8

n.b. estimated clinical incidence of anthrax in the USSR under usual public health conditions is: cutaneous 95%

intestinal 2.4% and inhalation 1.15%. Also "since 1961 no cases (of anthrax) have been recorded among the population of..... Sverdlovsk oblast". (Papugaylo, V.M. etal, Current Problems of Prophylaxis Against Anthrax in the USSR, 1974.) This statement could speak to the Soviet claim of an "ordinary outbreak" in Sverdlovsk oblast in 1979.

We will have several new discussion points, next time we meet. I greatly appreciate your interest and input.


Julian Hoptman